



**The Skates Fire is being managed under wildland fire use.
Wildland Fire Use is the management of naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish
specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined
in Fire Management Plans.**

SKATES FIRE NEWS RELEASE

June 13, 2006

SILVER CITY, NM--Over the next several evenings, residents in the area of Lake Roberts can expect to see flames from the Skates Fire. As the fire progresses northward, night time burn out operations will be conducted as a mitigation measure to continue checking the fire along Highway 15. This night time burn out strategy will eventually be employed south of the Lake Roberts community as fire growth necessitates. Flames observed at night will make the fire appear closer and larger than it actually is and residents will have smoky conditions in the Lake Roberts/Mimbres Valley area.

Fire behavior at night can be different from the day because of cooler night time temperatures and higher relative humidity which slows down the rate of the fire's spread.

The purpose of these night time operations is to check the fire's spread and protect private property. The goal of managing the Skates Fire under wildland fire use is to allow fire to function in its natural role. This is the appropriate management response in our southwestern fire adapted ecosystems which have evolved from frequent fire activity.

For more information on the Skates Fire, please call Joan Hellen or Claudia Standish @

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